

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH



Nominee Profiles 2021

LOVE GOD • LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Messiah Lutheran Church

Nominee Profile

2021

Council Vice President Nominee: Tanya La Soya

2nd Term: October 1, 2021—September 30, 2023

Years Member at Messiah: 23 years

**Messiah Ministries or Community Activities/Leadership
Roles in which you have participated:**

Living Vine Co-leader, Team Leader Brownie Brigade, Love Placentia, Offering Count, Administrative projects, Hannah's Gift, No-sew blankets, Messiah Council, Personnel Committee, Finance Committee, Stewardship Committee

Leadership: Deputy Director (Retired) for City of Anaheim responsible for Anaheim Convention Center, Angel Stadium & Honda Center



Who has been the most significant influence upon your life and your faith, and why?

My parents, as they raised me with Christian values. My husband, as he led me to be an active member of church and his faith is strong as is his walk with Christ. Pastor Ray Wade, as his guidance was critical at a turning point in my life and ongoing

Share a scripture passage that has most shaped your faith. What within this passage has given energy to your faith?

Proverbs 3: 5-6 *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."* This scripture has been important to me on so many occasions during my life (youth, young adult, marriage, work and parents).

How do you see yourself helping Messiah Lutheran Church "Love God • Love One Another"?

I believe my desire to serve and help others both at Messiah and in our community will help Messiah carry out our mission.

What would you like Messiah to know about you?

I've been married to Frank for 30 years and we have 3 daughters and a granddaughter. We live in Placentia and love our family (and our 2 dachshunds). I'm blessed to have my Dad at age 98 live close by. I retired from the City of Anaheim in 2014 after 32 years and am now fortunate to have time to volunteer, spend time with my family and travel.

I'm thankful for the many opportunities Messiah, through Bible studies and small groups, has given me to learn more of God's word and grow my faith.

Messiah Lutheran Church

Nominee Profile

2021

Financial Secretary: David Gruchow

Term: October 1, 2021—September 30, 2023

Years Member at Messiah: 25 years

Messiah Ministries or Community Activities/Leadership Roles in which you have participated:

During the time we've been Partners in Ministry here at Messiah, I have served on the Messiah Church Council as its Treasurer, Financial Secretary and President. As the current Financial Secretary, I also serve as Chair of the Stewardship Committee. I also Chaired the Associate Pastor Call Committee in 2014 –15. In the community, I have served on the Orange County Heart Association Board of Directors and as a member of the Board of Managers for the North Orange County YMCA. I coached youth soccer for five years, was an active PTA volunteer, captained several teams in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, and put in many hours of volunteer service with the Girl Scouts and National Charity League along with my wife and daughter. For 17 years, I also served as the Assistant City Manager for the City of Yorba Linda.



Who has been the most significant influence upon your life and your faith, and why?

Despite a very troubled youth, the loss of two children, and the untimely death of her beloved husband, my Mom never lost her faith in Jesus Christ or wavered in her devotion to my sister and me. Looking back on how she handled all of the trials and tribulations of her life still fills me with the deepest sense of awe and humble respect. I am profoundly grateful for this great gift that God gave to the world: my Mom, Evelyn Gruchow.

Share a scripture passage that has most shaped your faith. What within this passage has given energy to your faith?

Isaiah 40:31: *"...but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."*

I take great comfort from this passage from Isaiah, knowing that despite all of our earthly problems and weaknesses, the Lord always watches out for us, giving us the strength to faithfully endure the tests He puts before us.

How do you see yourself helping Messiah Lutheran Church “Love God • Love One Another?”

I consider myself a servant of God. He has blessed me with many gifts and a desire to share them with others. I believe that leading by example, witnessing my faith, encouraging love and tolerance, and using my time and talent to promote the mission of this Church helps me to fulfill God's plan for my life.

What would you like Messiah to know about you?

During my life journey, I have been shaped by a sense of service: to the churches I've belonged to, to my community, to my family. My Mom believed in the old saying that we should, “Do for others before self”, and I feel that inspiration in my heart today. I've always said that I don't do any of these things for myself; my contentment comes from knowing that the lives of others may just be a little bit better today because I cared.

Messiah Lutheran Church

Nominee Profile

2021

Council At-Large Nominee: Vance Bjorklund

Term: October 1, 2021—September 30, 2023

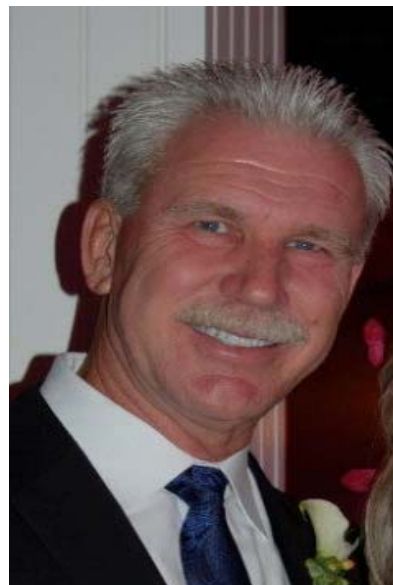
Years Member at Messiah: 37 years

**Messiah Ministries or Community Activities/Leadership
Roles in which you have participated:**

Praise Band / VBS / Confirmation Guide / Men's Ministry /
Softball / Small Groups/ Nominating Committee

**Who has been the most significant influence upon your life
and your faith, and why?**

My parents. Born, raised, baptized, confirmed Missouri Synod,
they provided the groundwork, tools, love and support through-
out my entire life to know that I have been saved by grace.



**Share a scripture passage that has most shaped your faith. What within this passage has
given energy to your faith?**

1 Corinthians 13:13 - “And now these three remain; faith, hope and love. But the greatest of
these is love.” Love is all anyone could ever hope for. From birth to death, to be loved and to
give love completes your faith journey.

**How do you see yourself helping Messiah Lutheran Church “Love God • Love One
Another?”**

Continue my faith journey sharing my talents, resources and prayers.

What would you like Messiah to know about you?

I think they already know too much! I may have scared them. Married 44 years; 2 children; 3
grandchildren; play drums; love golf; cycling; retired Cop, but still active as a reserve officer
involved in our Honor Guard.

Messiah Lutheran Church

Nominee Profile

2021

Council At-Large Nominee: Michael Flores

Term: October 1, 2021—September 30, 2023

Years Member at Messiah: 6 years

Messiah Ministries or Community Activities/Leadership Roles in which you have participated:

Supported Marriage Workshop team and planning of two marriage workshops. Rotating member of the Contemporary Worship Choir

Who has been the most significant influence upon your life and your faith, and why?

My mother and father brought me to church and Sunday School when I was young. My mother taught me to pray each night before going to bed. Their consistent faith is instilled into my fabric. My wife Michele is my most significant influence over the past 10+ years. The partnership we have forged together and the depth of her faith continue to influence me every day.



Share a scripture passage that has most shaped your faith. What within this passage has given energy to your faith?

Matthew 22: 34-40 “...Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “ ‘ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ The Greatest Commandment. This is the passage that I turn to whenever I get confused about how to be or how to act. To me, this passage is so simple and so powerful and has both supported and fortified me over the years.

How do you see yourself helping Messiah Lutheran Church “Love God • Love One Another?”

By stepping into leadership and bringing all of my gifts to the table to support Messiah’s mission. By being a living example of the values and the word of God as I have come to understand it. By listening to others and being a conduit of God’s love when others are in need. By sharing what I know of God’s grace with others, so they know they are loved even when they believe they are not worthy.

What would you like Messiah to know about you?

I have a contract with myself: I am a Caring, Courageous and Responsible man. If you experience me not being these any of these, please call me out. My “why” in life is to create a safe and loving space for growth so that we can thrive and lead joyful lives. This is my passion and purpose in life.

Messiah Lutheran Church

Nominee Profile

2021

Council At-Large Nominee: Scott Mazurier

2nd Term: October 1, 2021—September 30, 2023

Years Member at Messiah: 27

Messiah Ministries or Community Activities/ Leadership Roles in which you have participated:

PYLUSD Educator, Mentor, and Administrator; Western Association of Schools and Colleges Accrediting Commission Volunteer; Local Community Coach; Miss Anaheim Scholarship Association Judge.

Who has been the most significant influence upon your life and your faith, and why?

My Parents, Dennis and Paula Mazurier, have always shown me the true spirit of accepting and serving others as they are.



Share a scripture passage that has most shaped your faith. What within this passage has given energy to your faith?

Luke 6: 38: *Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.* This passage reminds me of the value of serving others. It reminds me to give my all to those that surround me.

How do you see yourself helping Messiah Lutheran Church “Love God • Love One Another?”

The Messiah family has taught me to truly “Love One Another”. I hope to repay that gift by continuing to serve our community with love for all.

What would you like Messiah to know about you?

I am honored to be nominated to serve the community that has shaped the person I have grown to be.

Messiah Lutheran Church

Nominee Profile

2021

Council At-Large Nominee: Frank V. Nunez

Term: October 1, 2021—September 30, 2023

Years Member at Messiah: 13 years

Messiah Ministries or Community Activities/Leadership Roles in which you have participated:

Stephen Ministry Leader, Stephen Ministry Caregiver

Who has been the most significant influence upon your life and your faith, and why?

Life: My father and mother, my first wife, Kathleen, who died in 2015 from breast cancer and my children because they always push me to grow. Faith: Kathleen because she was not raised in faith as I was and her faith journey made me grow in my faith.



Share a scripture passage that has most shaped your faith. What within this passage has given energy to your faith?

Romans 8: 28 *“And we know in all things God works for the good of those who love him and are called according to his purpose.”* “All things” include illness and death and this passage made my grief journey easier to get through.

How do you see yourself helping Messiah Lutheran Church “Love God • Love One Another?”

By living my life in the best way possible so that my light will shine before others so they will see my good deeds and glorify God. The best good deed I can do every day is to love instead of hate.

What would you like Messiah to know about you?

I am always trying to be worthy of the name “Christian”.

Messiah Lutheran Church

Nominee Profile

2021

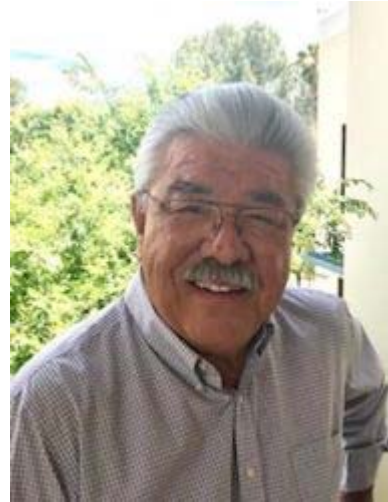
Synod Assembly Nominee: Joe A. Aguirre

Term: Synod Assembly for May 2022 and May 2023

Years Member at Messiah: 4 Years

**Messiah Ministries or Community Activities/Leadership
Roles in which you have participated:**

First service usher, Messiah Book Club member, Participation of Messiah School painting of walls, Love Placentia clean-up volunteer



Who has been the most significant influence upon your life and your faith, and why?

The women in my life; my grandmother, mother and my wife, Jan. From when I was born, to now, they helped me stay close to Church and God.

Share a scripture passage that has most shaped your faith. What within this passage has given energy to your faith?

Psalm 23 It says the Lord is with me, all the days of my life. I see it as a prayer for living, even though it is recited at funerals.

How do you see yourself helping Messiah Lutheran Church “Love God • Love One Another?”

By being an active member of Messiah Lutheran.

What would you like Messiah to know about you?

I enjoy conversing with people about events, sports, travel and everyday life.

Messiah Lutheran Church

Nominee Profile

2020

Nominating Committee Nominee: Jim Hodgson

Nomination 1 year term:

October 1, 2021—September 30, 2022

Years Member at Messiah: 12 Years

**Messiah Ministries or Community Activities/Leadership
Roles in which you have participated:**

Relay For Life (Team Captain), Audio/Visual Team, Men's Fellowship, Tijuana House Build Mission, Caring Hands Canned Goods Drives, Call Committee, MFAM Easter Passion Drive Through, Young Adults (YoAds), Cub Scout Pack Cubmaster, Placentia Pony Baseball Assistant Coach

Who has been the most significant influence upon your life and your faith, and why?

My parents. My father is an ordained Lutheran pastor and was always a calming and loving figure in my life. He encouraged me to be more committed to going to church and be involved in many ministries. My mother, Jan, who is also a Partner in Ministry, has always encouraged me to be a good and moral person and to grow in my faith.



Share a scripture passage that has most shaped your faith. What within this passage has given energy to your faith?

Isaiah 30: 15. *"In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength."* This passage encourages me daily to devote time to be alone with the Lord, to meditate, and to pray. I find that when my connection to the Lord is stronger, it helps me take on the day and to serve him with a renewed focus.

How do you see yourself helping Messiah Lutheran Church "Love God • Love One Another?"

I see myself providing knowledge of many of Messiah's ministries. I am eager to volunteer and help out when needed.

What would you like Messiah to know about you?

I have a wonderful family and I am very blessed to be a Partner in Ministry at Messiah. My wife, Stephanie, and our three boys; Andrew (8), Luke (6), and John (aka Jack) (4), all enjoy the people and many of the ministries at Messiah.

Messiah Lutheran Church

Nominee Profile

2021

Nominating Committee Nominee: Sage Melton

Nomination 1 year term:

October 1, 2021—September 30, 2022

Years Member at Messiah: 23 Years

**Messiah Ministries or Community Activities/Leadership
Roles in which you have participated:**

Nominating Committee, VBS, Worship Team, MFAM, Son-shine Singers Co-Director, Worked on Staff for a couple years.

**Who has been the most significant influence upon your life
and your faith, and why?**

My parents, my husband and definitely my friends at Messiah. I am so thankful that my parents got me connected as I was beginning high school, because that provided an amazing home to learn, strengthen my faith and keep me grounded.



**Share a scripture passage that has most shaped your faith. What within this passage has
given energy to your faith?**

Proverbs 31: 25-26. *“She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.”* It challenges me, empowers me and inspires me to be the kind of person I hope to be and continue to be more like with God’s guidance, grace and love in my life.

**How do you see yourself helping Messiah Lutheran Church “Love God • Love One
Another?”**

I hope to do my best in service to the church that it would encourage others to serve as well and not just within our congregation but the community as well.

What would you like Messiah to know about you?

I met my husband at Messiah and we got married here and have three precious kids.

Messiah Lutheran Church

Nominee Profile

2021

Nominating Committee Nominee: Stephanie Pacchiarotti

Nomination 1 year term:

October 1, 2021—September 30, 2022

Years Member at Messiah: 5 Years

Messiah Ministries or Community Activities/Leadership Roles in which you have participated:

Nominating Committee. Within my profession/work I am involved with several groups including Women in Engineering, Events Planning and Workplace Safety. I've previously been involved in the Red Cross, SWE and Girls Inc.



Who has been the most significant influence upon your life and your faith, and why?

Pastor Galchutt was one of the most influential influences in my early life at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and School in MN. He encouraged me to develop my faith and to trust in the Lord when faced with trying times. He and his wife were instrumental in helping my family and they truly led their life as a testament to God.

Share a scripture passage that has most shaped your faith. What within this passage has given energy to your faith?

John 14:27. *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."* This passage has soothed my spirit and guided my faith during times when I was dealing with loss. It reminds me that God is always present and that I can rest my weary heart and lean on him when in doubt. Particularly during this time of uncertainty and stress, I have reflected on this passage often and it gives me peace.

How do you see yourself helping Messiah Lutheran Church "Love God • Love One Another?"

I wish to help Messiah Lutheran first by joining this committee and by supporting other ministries within Messiah. I also hope to step outside my comfort zone to provide support, comfort and aid to others during these challenging times. I want to help ensure Messiah's growth and success by using the gifts that God has given me.

What would you like Messiah to know about you?

I have been married to my husband Jason for 9 years and have two wonderful children, Lily (5) and Jacob (1 year). I work at Vyair Medical, a medical ventilation company, as an R&D biomedical engineer. I'm originally from Minnesota (go Vikings!), but have been living in California since I was 18. I enjoy hiking, camping, swimming, knitting, gardening, and cooking.